

RaShall M. Brackney, Ph.D.

Dr. RaShall M. Brackney is a nationally respected law enforcement executive, scholar, and public safety leader with more than 35 years of experience. She served for three decades with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, retiring as a Commander after holding senior leadership roles across patrol, investigations, and special operations, where she oversaw large teams and complex public safety initiatives.

Dr. Brackney later served as Chief of Police for George Washington University and the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, leading departments through periods of heightened public scrutiny and organizational change. In these roles, she implemented reforms focused on operational effectiveness, officer training, transparency, accountability, and community engagement.

She is currently a Distinguished Professor of Practice at George Mason University, where she integrates scholarship and executive leadership to advance policing, public safety, and community trust. Her work emphasizes procedural justice, harm reduction, restorative justice, and collaborative approaches to strengthening police–community relations.

Dr. Brackney earned her Ph.D. from Robert Morris University and holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Carnegie Mellon University. She has been a Fellow at Carnegie Mellon University's Institute for Politics and Strategy and was selected as a Fellow of the Harvard University Advanced Leadership Initiative (2024). She is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and has completed advanced executive training through the U.S. Secret Service and the Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP).

She is a life member of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), where she serves as Chair of the National Education and Training Committee, and is a member of the FBI National Academy Associates (FBINAA), the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE), and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).

Dr. Brackney is married to Dr. Stefan Wheelock, a graduate of Tougaloo College. They have one daughter, Rikki, and a son-in-law, Brendon. Her family maintains strong ties to Mississippi, where her in-laws reside in Madison.